

Applicant: Polly Stecyk
Application No: 10/663,016
Examner: Junior O. Mendoza
Docket No.: 705397.4005

In the Claims

1. (Previously Amended) A consumer electronics device having media supervision enforcement circuitry for supervising personal exposure to user discernible information, comprising:

a first logic unit configured for generating viewer indicators indicative of viewers present in a viewing area;

non-volatile memory configured for receiving a plurality of viewing profiles for selected viewers, wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include content-based specifications and wherein one or more of the plurality of viewing profiles include two or more time range specifications and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the two or more time range specifications;

a second logic unit coupled to the first logic unit and the non-volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing profile and a content-based indicator and a reference time with the active viewing profile, the second logic unit being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content-based indicator and the reference time with the active viewing profiles; and

a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the second logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment if the reference time falls outside of each of the two or more time range specifications corresponding to the active viewing profile or the content-based indicator does not exceed the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more of time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment if the

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content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification corresponding to one of the two or more time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls within.

2. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification;

3. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 2, further comprising an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

4. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

5. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated content-based specifications.

6. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator.

7. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

8. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

9. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the first logic unit is a computer configured to run facial recognition software.

10. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a camera coupled to the first logic unit and configured to

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continuously scan the viewing area associated with the consumer electronic device.

11. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

12. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

13. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specification and associated time range and content-based specifications.

14. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 1, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator and timing information.

15.—21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Amended) A device comprising:
a viewer monitoring system;

non-volatile memory configured for receiving a plurality of viewing profiles for selected viewers, wherein the plurality of viewing profiles include a plurality of time range specifications and different content-based specifications corresponding to each of the plurality of time range specifications;

a logic unit coupled to the viewer monitoring system and the non-volatile memory and being configured for comparing a viewer indicator with viewing profiles to identify an active viewing profile and a content-based indicator and a reference time with the active viewing profile, the logic unit

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being further configured for generating a control signal in response to the comparison between the content-based indicator and the reference time with the active viewing profiles; and

a signal impairment mechanism coupled to the logic unit and configured for, based on the control signal, selectively passing a program signal there through without substantial impairment if the reference time falls outside of each of the plurality of time range specifications corresponding to the active viewing profiles or the content-based indicator does not exceed the content-based specification corresponding to one of the plurality of time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls or passing the program signal there through with substantial impairment if the content-based indicator exceeds the content-based specification corresponding to one of the plurality of time range specifications of the active viewing profile within which the reference time falls within.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22 wherein the viewer monitoring system comprises a facial recognition system.

24. (Original) The device of claim 23 wherein the facial recognition system comprises a computer configured to run a facial recognition program and a camera coupled to the computer.

25. (Original) The device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer specification.

26. (Original) The device of claim 22, further comprising an output device coupled to the signal impairment mechanism for transforming the program signal into the user discernible information.

27. (Original) The device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

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28. (Original) The device of claim 22, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated content-based specifications.

29. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator.

30. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the signal impairment device is a switch.

31. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the output device is a television system audio/video output device.

32. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22 wherein each of the viewing profiles comprises a viewer specification, a finite time range specification and a content-based specification corresponding to the viewer and time range specifications.

33. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, further comprising a data entry system for selectively inputting the viewer, time range and content-based specifications into the non-volatile memory for storage.

34. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 22, wherein the non-volatile memory includes a look-up list for storing a plurality of viewer specifications and associated time range and content-based specifications.

35. (Original) The consumer electronics device of claim 23, wherein the program signal carries the content-based indicator and timing information, and further comprising a data extraction device coupled to the logic unit for extracting the content-based indicator and timing information.